

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00

A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /050 W

-----201651Z 117032 /43

O R 201614Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8747

AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, DN, NI, US

SUBJECT: BENIN COUP ATTEMPT: EFFORTS TO SECURE CRO DAVIS RELEASE

REF: (A) COTONOU 144; (B) STATE 013411

1. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION 1000 HOURS JANUARY 20, BENINESE AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA PRUDENCIO REPORTED THAT HE HAD INFORMED BENIN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JANUARY 18 OF OUR CONCERN OVER STATUS OF CRO DAVIS. PRUDENCIO READ TEXT OF CABLE WHICH DESCRIBED DAVIS AS A "COUNSELOR" WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THE HOTEL CROIX DU SUD. HE ASKED MINISTRY'S ASSISTANCE IN SECURING DAVIS' RELEASE, BUT AS OF THE TIME WE SPOKE HE HAD HAD NO REPLY FROM COTONOU. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD INFORM AMBASSADOR EASUM OF ANY REPLY.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH PRUDENCIO THOMPSON NOTED EFFORTS OF BENINESE MFA ON DAVIS' BEHALF AND REFERRED TO STATE POLICE'S ROLE IN CASE. PRUDENCIO SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE COULD BE A PROBLEM BETWEEN MINISTRIES, BUT THAT HE COULD DO NO MORE THAN REFER MATTER TO MFA.

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3. COMMENT: SINCE PRUDENCIO APPEARS TO BE DOING AS MUCH AS HE CAN, DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REQUEST FMG TO TAKE MATTER UP WITH PRUDENCIO ON OUR BEHALF (REF. ?B), ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FMG COULD ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE I.E., BRINGING SERIOUSNESS OF DAVIS' ARREST TO MFA'S ATTENTION.

4. AT THIS STAGE, BEFORE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY HAS HAD OPPOR-
TUNITY TO ACT ON MFA NOTE, AND WHILE CHARGE'S MEETING WITH MININ-
TERIOR STILL PENDING, THOMPSON BELIEVES USE OF INFLUENTIAL THIRD
PARTIES ON DAVIS' BEHALF MIGHT PROVOKE ANGRY REACTION ON
GPRB'S PART AND POSSIBLE CHARGES
OF INTERVENING IN INTERNAL INVESTIGATIVE PROCUEDURES OF BENINESE
STATE. DIRECT APPEAL TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS FOR
ITINTERCESSION MIGHT BE RESERVED AS LAST RESORT.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARRESTS, FOREIGN SERVICE STAFF EMPLOYEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: CASC, PFOR, DM, NI, US, (DAVIS, JOHN)
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